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of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021

No. 2

## Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, at 12:30 p.m.

## House of Representatives

MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
January 4, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DIANA DEGETTE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Gracious and Almighty God, in recent days, so many voices across our Nation and within this House have prayed for peace and unity. In answer to our pleas, speak Your love into the hearts of each Member, that the deliberations of this 117th Congress would bring amity with our compatriots and hope to America.

As we look across the aisle, may we pause to look for and see You in the face of each one who, in seeking to serve in such a time as this, brings their God-given passion, their heartfelt dedication, their very selves, to these Chambers.

May that simple yet profound awareness serve to diffuse animosity and dispel any inclination for disparagement

or ridicule. And may it compel each of us to approach the tasks of this day with humility and graciousness of spirit.

Thus, may we then honor our responsibility to reflect You to those with whom You have called us to serve and to serve with. That we, as instruments of Your love for us and for this Nation, would attend to the good work of bringing Your justice, Your truth, and Your peace to our country.

We pray these things in the strength of Your holy name.  
Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. YARMUTH led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ADOPTING THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE 117TH CONGRESS

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged resolution.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 8

*Resolved,*

### SECTION 1. ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CON- GRESS.

The Rules of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, including applicable provisions of law or concurrent resolution that constituted rules of the House at the end of the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, are adopted as the Rules of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress, with amendments to the standing rules as provided in section 2, and with other orders as provided in this resolution.

### SEC. 2. CHANGES TO THE STANDING RULES.

(a) CONFORMING CHANGE.—In clause 2(i) of rule II—

(1) strike the designation of subparagraph (1); and

(2) strike subparagraph (2).

(b) OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AND OFFICE OF THE WHISTLEBLOWER OMBUDS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—In rule II, add at the end the following new clauses:

### “Office of Diversity and Inclusion

“9.(a) There is established an Office of Diversity and Inclusion. The Speaker, in consultation with the Minority Leader, shall appoint a Director of the Office from recommendations provided by the chair of the Committee on House Administration in consultation with the ranking minority member of such committee.

“(b) Subject to the policy direction and oversight of the Committee on House Administration, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion shall—

“(1) direct and guide House employing offices to recruit, hire, train, develop, advance, promote, and retain a diverse workforce;

“(2) survey and evaluate diversity in House employing offices;

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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